

ANNEX B
TO PART 4
CHARTER TASK FORCE
DATED: 30 SEP 86

PUBLIC OPINION ON HOMOSEXUALS IN THE FORCES:
A SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Summary Note Prepared For The Charter Task Force
Department of National Defence

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The views and opinions expressed in this summary note
are those of the author and not necessarily those
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17
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PUBLIC OPINION: HOMOSEXUAL IN THE FORCES ISSUES

ISSUE:

1. Allowing practising homosexuals to enrol and serve in the CF could change the public image of the CF and consequently affect recruiting and public support for the CF.

COMMENTS:

2. The purpose of the survey was to determine public support for employing homosexuals in the CF and to ascertain whether employing homosexuals would affect public recommendation of the CF as an employer. In addition, the results of the survey can be used as a context for similar questions in the CF-wide survey. The results of the survey were derived from interviews with 971 men and 1067 women carried out in the homes of the respondents between 26 May and 15 Jun 1986: 217 in the Atlantic Provinces, 586 in Quebec, 508 in Ontario and 675 in the Western Provinces.

3. Concerning the question of whether the CF should employ homosexuals, males were evenly divided while 59% of women were for and 27% against. Age was also a factor; for example, 18 to 29 year olds were 60% for and 32% against and 60 and over were evenly split. There was quite a disparity in regions. The extremes were Quebec with 74% for and 21% against and Eastern Canada with 35% for and 51% against.

.../2

002863

AGC-1750_0002

- 2 -

4. Most respondents felt that permitting homosexuals to serve in the military would not affect their recommendation to join the CF. Only 2% of those surveyed would be more likely to recommend the CF, while a substantial number of every category of respondent would be less likely; for example, 34% of males, 22% of females and 40% of those from the Atlantic provinces would be less likely.

5. Similar results were obtained concerning the impact of employing homosexuals on CF effectiveness. Only 6% indicated effectiveness would increase. The majority (i.e. 52%) thought there would be no influence while a substantial number of all categories of respondent felt employing homosexuals would decrease CF effectiveness; for example, 41% of males, 35% of females, 44% from the Atlantic provinces, and 35% from the province of Quebec.

6. A cross tabulation of the responses from the question on whether homosexuals should be employed in the CF and the other two questions indicated that 80% of the respondents who were in favour of employing homosexuals in the CF felt that there would be no influence on CF effectiveness and that their recommendation would not be affected. On the other hand, for those not in favour of employing homosexuals in the CF, 72%

.../3

002864

AGC-1750_0003

- 3 -

felt employing homosexuals would decrease the effectiveness of the CF and 60% stated they would be less likely to recommend the CF. These findings were consistent across respondent categories.

CONCLUSION:

7. While a majority of the general public, particularly women and those from Quebec, are proponents of employing homosexuals in the CF, they will not increase their recommendations of the CF as an employer nor do they think employment of homosexuals will increase the effectiveness of the CF. However, the substantial number of Canadians who are against employing homosexuals in the CF feel that the effectiveness of the CF will decrease and they will be less likely to recommend the CF as an employer. Therefore, allowing homosexuals to enrol and serve in the CF will lower public confidence in the CF as an effective force and will have a negative affect on recruiting.

002865

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CANADIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS

MILITARY SERVICE FOR MINORITIES

CROP REPORT

See Annex B to PART 3

119
002866